

## ABSTRACT

[0066] A surgical instrument is provided for urging a longitudinal spinal member into a top-loading spinal implant. The instrument may comprise a holder assembly having a pair of fingers sized and configured to engage the underside of an edge of the spinal implant, a  
5 release assembly, and an actuating member. The release assembly may comprise a tubular member and a pusher member, the tubular member being sized and configured to be slidably disposed within the holder assembly, and the pusher member being sized and configured to slidably surround at least a portion of the holder assembly. Upon movement of the actuating member, the holder assembly and the release assembly are moveable with respect to one  
10 another so that the longitudinal spinal rod, which is engaged to the pusher member, is urged into engagement with the rod-receiving channel of the spinal implant.